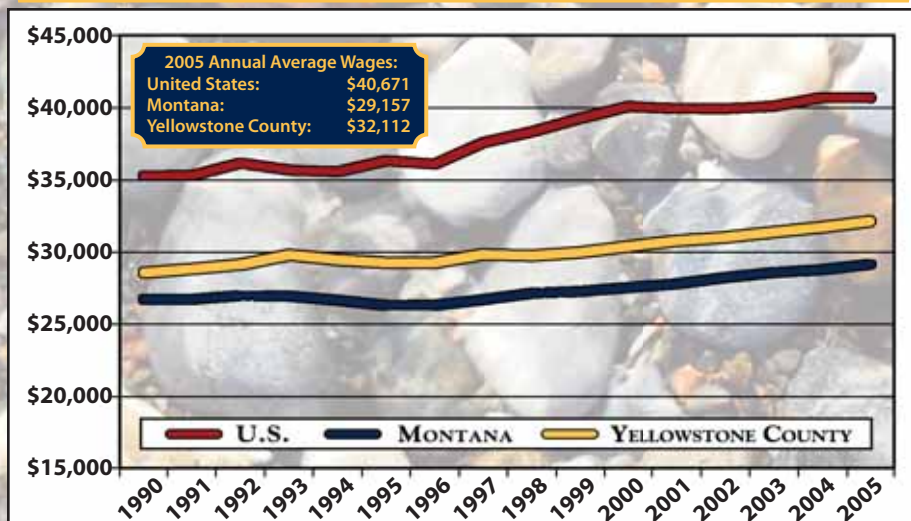


Annual Average Labor Force - Yellowstone County

| Year | Civilian Labor Force | Employed | Unemployed | Unemployment Rate |
|------|----------------------|----------|------------|-------------------|
| 2005 | 79,700 | 77,123 | 2,577 | 3.2% |
| 2004 | 77,183 | 74,473 | 2,710 | 3.5% |
| 2003 | 75,687 | 73,071 | 2,616 | 3.5% |
| 2002 | 75,411 | 72,742 | 2,669 | 3.5% |
| 2001 | 72,180 | 69,603 | 2,577 | 3.6% |
| 2000 | 71,492 | 68,575 | 2,917 | 4.1% |

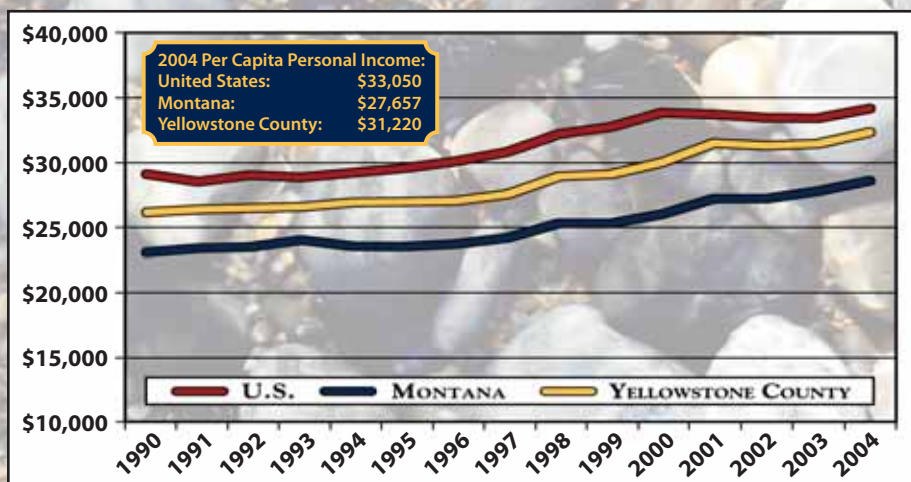
Source: Montana Department of Labor & Industry, Local Area Unemployment Statistics Program (LAUS)

Annual Average Wages, 1990 to 2005 (In 2005 Dollars)



Source: Montana Department of Labor & Industry, Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages Program (QCEW)

Per Capita Personal Income, 1990 to 2004 (In 2005 Dollars)



Source: Bureau of Economic Analysis, U.S. Department of Commerce, Regional Economic Information System

Demographic & Economic Information for Yellowstone County

Photo courtesy of Robert C. Marvin, Research & Analysis Bureau



RESEARCH & ANALYSIS BUREAU

Research & Analysis Bureau - Montana Department of Labor & Industry
 P.O. Box 1728 - Helena, MT 59624-1728 - Ph: (406) 444-2430
 or Toll-free: (800) 541-3904 - Fax: (406) 444-2638
 E-mail: webmasterrad@mt.gov - Website: www.ourfactyourfuture.org



Census and Economic Information Center - Montana Department of Commerce
 P.O. Box 200505 - Helena, MT 59620-0505 - Ph: (406) 841-2740 - Fax: (406) 841-2731
 E-mail: ceic@mt.gov - Website: www.ceic.mt.gov

YELLOWSTONE COUNTY

Yellowstone County is Montana's most populous county, with an estimated 136,691 residents in 2005. Billings, the county seat, is the state's largest city, with a population estimated at 98,721 in 2005.¹ In March 2006, the Billings City-County Planning Department estimated that Billings surpassed the 100,000 population milestone, putting the unofficial number at 101,182 residents. Other cities and towns in Yellowstone County include: Acton, Ballantine, Broadview, Custer, Huntley, Laurel, Pompey's Pillar, Shepard, and Worden.

Billings, the largest city in a 500 mile radius, serves as a commercial and transportation hub for the state, as well as a major center for education and medical services. Billings benefits from having a diversified economy, where oil and gas, health care, livestock, and banking play significant roles. The city boasts two colleges (MSU-Billings and Rocky Mountain College), two major hospitals, two oil refineries, and an international airport.

Health Care & Social Assistance is the number one industry subsector in Yellowstone County, employing 10,554 people in 2005. Other significant subsectors include Retail Trade (with 9,462 employees), Accommodation & Food Services (7,478), and Wholesale Trade (5,096). In 2005, the fastest growing subsectors of Yellowstone County's economy included Mining (up 13.8% from 2004), Construction (up 10.5%), Real Estate, Rental & Leasing (up 9.7%), and Professional, Scientific and Technical Services (up 9.4%).³

¹U.S. Census Bureau, Population Estimates Program

²Kemnick, Ed. "Billings reaches population milestone of 100,000," *Billings Gazette*. March 16th, 2006. www.billingsgazette.net/articles/2006/03/16/news/local/20-population.txt

³Montana Department of Labor & Industry, Research & Analysis Bureau, Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages (QCEW) Program

Resources for Yellowstone County

Chambers of Commerce

Billings Chamber
815 S. 27th, Billings, MT 59107-1177
(406) 245-4111, www.billingschamber.com

Laurel Chamber
108 E. Main, Laurel, MT 59044
(406) 628-8105, www.laurelmontana.org

Economic Development

Big Sky Economic Development Corporation
222 N. 32nd St., Suite 200, Billings, MT 59101,
(406) 256-6871, www.bigskyedc.org/

Montana Business Incubator
100 Poly Dr., Suite 150, Billings, MT 59101
(406) 657-2138, www.mtbiz.org/

Regional Development Office
Montana Department of Commerce
Billings, MT 59102, (406) 655-1696
E-mail: alionesrdo@bresnan.net

Newspapers

Billings Gazette
P.O. Box 36300, Billings, MT 59107-6300
(406) 657-1200 or (800) 543-2505
www.billingsgazette.com

The Billings Outpost
1833 Grand Ave., Billings, MT 59102
(406) 248-1616, www.billingsnews.com

Yellowstone County News
748 Railroad Hwy, Huntley, MT 59037
(406) 348-2649, E-mail: yconmont@nemontel.net

Laurel Outlook
415 E. Main, P.O. Box 278, Laurel, MT 59044
(406) 628-4412 or (800) 295-4412
www.laureloutlook.com

Job Service Workforce Center

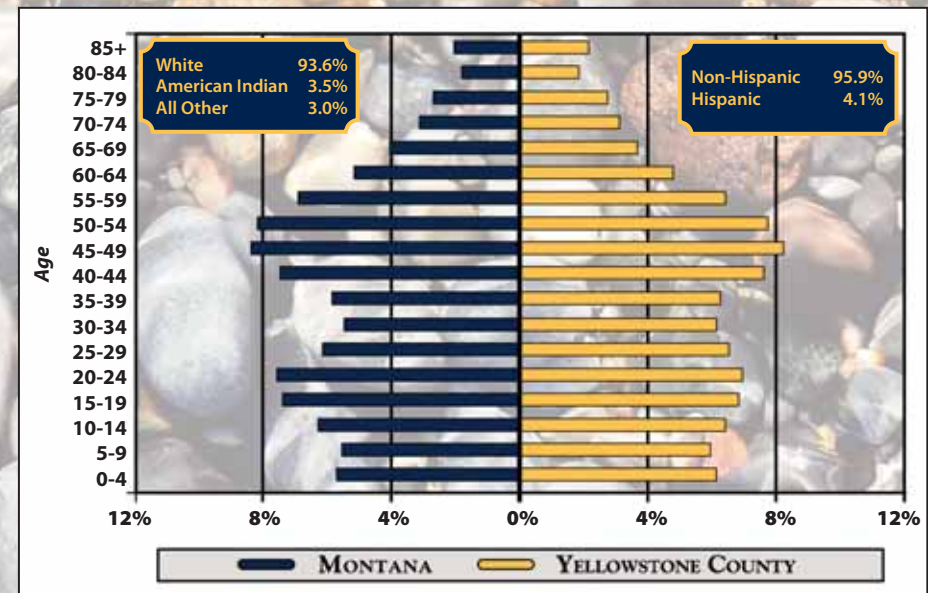
2121 Rosebud Dr., Stop B,
Billings, MT 59102-6274
(406) 652-3080, wsd.dli.mt.gov/local/billings/

Population for Yellowstone County & Related Areas

| | Total Population | | | | | |
|-------------------------------|------------------|-----------|---------|---------|---------|---------|
| | Census | Estimates | | | | |
| Geography | 2000 | 2001 | 2002 | 2003 | 2004 | 2005 |
| Montana | 902,195 | 906,098 | 910,395 | 917,885 | 926,920 | 935,670 |
| Yellowstone County | 129,352 | 130,572 | 131,898 | 133,265 | 134,806 | 136,691 |
| Billings | 89,847 | 92,801 | 94,055 | 95,434 | 97,041 | 98,721 |
| Broadview | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 149 | 150 |
| Laurel | 6,255 | 6,295 | 6,313 | 6,330 | 6,343 | 6,342 |
| Balance of Yellowstone County | 33,100 | 31,326 | 31,380 | 31,351 | 31,273 | 31,478 |

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Population Estimates Program

Distribution of Population by Age Montana and Yellowstone County, 2005



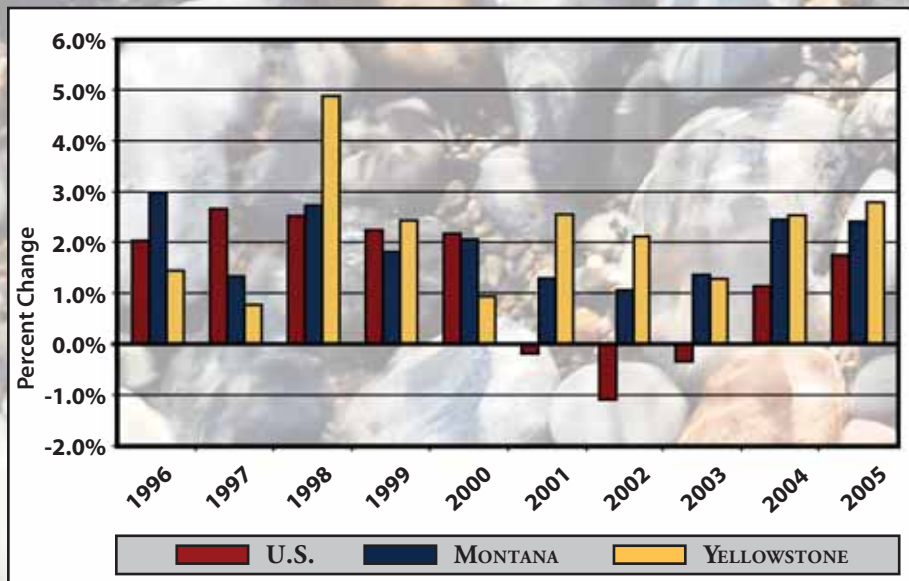
Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2005 Population Estimates

Highest Level of Educational Attainment (Population 25 years and older)

| Educational Attainment | Yellowstone County | Montana | U.S. |
|-------------------------------------|--------------------|---------|-------|
| Less than High School Diploma | 11.5% | 12.8% | 19.6% |
| High School Diploma (or equivalent) | 31.0% | 31.3% | 28.6% |
| Some College | 25.5% | 25.6% | 21.0% |
| Associate Degree | 5.5% | 5.9% | 6.3% |
| Bachelor's Degree | 19.1% | 17.2% | 15.5% |
| Master's Degree | 4.5% | 4.6% | 5.9% |
| Professional Degree | 2.1% | 1.7% | 2.0% |
| Doctoral Degree | 0.8% | 0.9% | 1.0% |

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Census 2000

Percent Change in Employment: 1996 to 2005 U.S., Montana, and Yellowstone County



Source: Montana Department of Labor & Industry, Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages Program (QCEW)

Top 20 Private Employers in Yellowstone County (Based on 1st Quarter 2006 Data - Listed in Alphabetical Order)

| Business Name | Size Class | Business Name | Size Class |
|--------------------------------|------------|----------------------------------|------------|
| Advanced Personnel Services | 7 | First Interstate Bank | 8 |
| Advantage Line | 7 | Food Services of America | 6 |
| Albertsons Food & Drug | 7 | Rocky Mountain College | 7 |
| Better Business Systems | 9 | St. John's Lutheran Home | 7 |
| Billings Gazette | 7 | St. Vincent Healthcare | 9 |
| Cenex | 7 | Sysco Food Services | 7 |
| Computer Claims Administration | 6 | United Parcel Service | 6 |
| ConocoPhillips | 7 | Wal-Mart | 8 |
| Deaconess Billings Clinic | 9 | Wells Fargo | 8 |
| ExxonMobil | 7 | Yellowstone Boys and Girls Ranch | 7 |

Employment Size Class Coding: Class 9 = 1000+ employees, Class 8 = 500 to 999 employees, Class 7 = 250 to 499 employees, Class 6 = 100 to 249 employees, Class 5 = 50 to 99 employees, Class 4 = 20 to 49 employees, Class 3 = 10 to 19 employees

Source: Montana Department of Labor & Industry, Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages Program (QCEW) This list includes ONLY private industry employers subject to unemployment insurance. Railroads and government agencies are excluded.

Agricultural Statistics - Yellowstone County

Farms

| | |
|---|-----------|
| Farms: (number) | 1,279 |
| Land in farms (acres) | 1,568,637 |
| Average size of farms (acres) | 1,226 |
| Farms by size: (number) | |
| Less than 1,000 acres | 1,042 |
| 1,000 acres or more | 237 |
| Farms by value of products sold and government payments received: (number) | |
| Less than \$100,000 | 1,123 |
| \$100,000 or more | 156 |
| Farms by type of organization: (number) | |
| Family, Individual, Partnership | 1,165 |
| Corporation, Cooperative, Trust | 114 |

Livestock Inventory and Crops Harvested

| | |
|---|---------|
| Livestock and Poultry Inventory (number) | |
| Cattle and calves | 127,980 |
| Hogs and pigs | 3,455 |
| Sheep and lambs | 4,588 |
| Horses and ponies | 4,102 |
| Bison | (D) |
| Chickens (layers and broilers) | (D) |
| Crops Harvested (acres) | |
| Corn for grain | 1,212 |
| Corn for silage or greenchop | 13,176 |
| Wheat for grain, All | 69,211 |
| Winter wheat for grain | 50,264 |
| Durum wheat for grain | (D) |
| Spring wheat for grain | (D) |
| Barley for grain | 20,397 |
| Oats for grain | 439 |
| Sunflower seed, All | 0 |
| Soybeans for beans | (D) |
| Hay, haylage, grass silage | 50,116 |

Operator Demographics

| | |
|---|-------|
| Primary occupation: (number) | |
| Farming | 643 |
| Other | 636 |
| Place of residence: (number) | |
| On farm operated | 1,036 |
| Not on farm operated | 243 |
| Years on present farm: (number) | |
| Less than 10 years | 397 |
| 10 years or more | 882 |
| Age group: (number) | |
| Under 55 years | 700 |
| 55 years and over | 579 |
| Average age of operators: (number) | 54 |

Source: U.S. Department of Agriculture, National Agricultural Statistics Service, 2002
(D) - Not Disclosable

Employment by Industry - Annual Averages 2005 - Yellowstone County

| Industry | Number of Establishments | Average Annual Employment | Annual Wages Per Job |
|--|--------------------------|---------------------------|----------------------|
| TOTAL ALL INDUSTRIES | 5,379 | 72,569 | \$32,112 |
| TOTAL PRIVATE | 5,272 | 64,264 | \$31,122 |
| AGRICULTURE, FORESTRY, FISHING & HUNTING | 41 | 273 | \$23,901 |
| Crop production | 9 | 46 | \$22,498 |
| Animal production | 21 | 172 | \$20,116 |
| Agriculture & forestry support | 12 | 55 | \$36,950 |
| MINING | 47 | 362 | \$62,403 |
| Oil and gas extraction | 17 | 113 | \$86,407 |
| Mining, except oil and gas | 4 | 19 | \$29,860 |
| Support activities for mining | 26 | 230 | \$53,208 |
| UTILITIES | 15 | 352 | \$63,861 |
| CONSTRUCTION | 682 | 4,460 | \$37,512 |
| Construction of buildings | 210 | 1,031 | \$34,848 |
| Heavy and civil engineering construction | 58 | 1,048 | \$46,524 |
| Specialty trade contractors | 415 | 2,381 | \$34,697 |
| MANUFACTURING | 190 | 3,493 | \$45,238 |
| Food manufacturing | 29 | 619 | \$32,033 |
| Beverage and tobacco product mfg | 4 | 119 | \$35,034 |
| Textile mills | 1 | * | * |
| Textile product mills | 4 | 35 | \$23,612 |
| Apparel manufacturing | 3 | * | * |
| Leather and allied product manufacturing | 2 | * | * |
| Wood product manufacturing | 8 | 108 | \$25,864 |
| Paper manufacturing | 1 | * | * |
| Printing and related support activities | 19 | 308 | \$26,286 |
| Petroleum & coal products manufacturing | 6 | 859 | \$81,790 |
| Chemical manufacturing | 7 | 105 | \$47,572 |
| Plastics & rubber products manufacturing | 2 | * | * |
| Nonmetallic mineral product mfg | 13 | 171 | \$35,279 |
| Primary metal manufacturing | 2 | * | * |
| Fabricated metal product manufacturing | 25 | 415 | \$39,109 |
| Machinery manufacturing | 12 | 190 | \$40,471 |
| Computer and electronic product mfg | 3 | * | * |
| Transportation equipment manufacturing | 5 | * | * |
| Furniture and related product mfg | 20 | 127 | \$24,187 |
| Miscellaneous manufacturing | 27 | 241 | \$32,930 |
| WHOLESALE TRADE | 440 | 5,096 | \$41,745 |
| Merchant wholesalers, durable goods | 259 | 3,149 | \$41,679 |
| Merchant wholesalers, nondurable goods | 118 | 1,725 | \$41,479 |
| Electronic markets & agents and brokers | 63 | 223 | \$44,748 |
| RETAIL TRADE | 682 | 9,571 | \$23,132 |
| Motor vehicle and parts dealers | 124 | 1,591 | \$35,896 |
| Furniture and home furnishings stores | 48 | 448 | \$28,780 |
| Electronics and appliance stores | 38 | 305 | \$21,360 |
| Building material & garden supply stores | 64 | 887 | \$26,970 |
| Food and beverage stores | 41 | 847 | \$19,573 |
| Health and personal care stores | 34 | 254 | \$24,751 |
| Gasoline stations | 52 | 533 | \$16,861 |
| Clothing and clothing accessories stores | 84 | 727 | \$13,205 |
| Sporting good, hobby, book, music stores | 54 | 617 | \$16,472 |
| General merchandise stores | 22 | 2,358 | \$20,255 |
| Miscellaneous store retailers | 108 | 862 | \$20,811 |
| Nonstore retailers | 14 | 142 | \$25,692 |

| Industry | Number of Establishments | Average Annual Employment | Annual Wages Per Job |
|--|--------------------------|---------------------------|----------------------|
| TRANSPORTATION AND WAREHOUSING | 210 | 2,788 | \$31,639 |
| Air transportation | 11 | 323 | \$33,513 |
| Truck transportation | 122 | 1,237 | \$35,778 |
| Transit and ground passenger transport | 10 | 286 | \$18,107 |
| Pipeline transportation | 5 | 41 | \$75,115 |
| Scenic and sightseeing transportation | 1 | * | * |
| Support activities for transportation | 40 | 479 | \$29,884 |
| Couriers and messengers | 17 | 394 | \$25,172 |
| Warehousing and storage | 4 | 27 | \$24,355 |
| INFORMATION | 90 | 1,294 | \$35,507 |
| Publishing industries, except Internet | 19 | 371 | \$35,615 |
| Motion picture, sound recording industry | 11 | 123 | \$20,223 |
| Broadcasting, except Internet | 12 | 289 | \$37,745 |
| Telecommunications | 34 | 474 | \$38,115 |
| ISPs, search portals, & data processing | 15 | 37 | \$34,184 |
| FINANCE AND INSURANCE | 301 | 2,850 | \$47,317 |
| Credit intermediation & related activity | 98 | 1,689 | \$41,708 |
| Securities, comm. contracts, investments | 57 | * | * |
| Insurance carriers & related activities | 144 | 823 | \$40,468 |
| Funds, trusts, other financial vehicles | 2 | * | * |
| REAL ESTATE AND RENTAL AND LEASING | 245 | 1,201 | \$26,174 |
| Real estate | 191 | 596 | \$26,007 |
| Rental and leasing services | 46 | 483 | \$21,154 |
| Lessors of nonfinancial intangible asset | 8 | 122 | \$46,909 |
| PROFESSIONAL AND TECHNICAL SERVICES | 545 | 4,098 | \$41,921 |
| Professional and technical services | 545 | 4,098 | \$41,921 |
| MANAGEMENT OF COMPANIES AND ENTERPRISES | 19 | 164 | \$52,157 |
| Management of companies and enterprises | 19 | 164 | \$52,157 |
| ADMINISTRATIVE AND WASTE SERVICES | 279 | 4,833 | \$18,119 |
| Administrative and support services | 265 | 4,695 | \$17,645 |
| Waste management and remediation service | 14 | 138 | \$34,233 |
| EDUCATIONAL SERVICES | 43 | 569 | \$22,463 |
| HEALTH CARE AND SOCIAL ASSISTANCE | 440 | 10,530 | \$40,433 |
| Ambulatory health care services | 267 | 2,127 | \$51,928 |
| Hospitals | 4 | 4,861 | \$50,381 |
| Nursing and residential care facilities | 37 | 2,132 | \$22,055 |
| Social assistance | 133 | 1,409 | \$16,570 |
| ARTS, ENTERTAINMENT, AND RECREATION | 132 | 1,616 | \$14,164 |
| Performing arts and spectator sports | 25 | 191 | \$13,020 |
| Museums, historical sites, zoos, & parks | 7 | 61 | \$21,316 |
| Amusements, gambling, and recreation | 100 | 1,364 | \$14,005 |
| ACCOMMODATION AND FOOD SERVICES | 367 | 7,478 | \$11,880 |
| Accommodation | 46 | 1,072 | \$13,830 |
| Food services and drinking places | 321 | 6,405 | \$11,554 |
| OTHER SERVICES | 504 | 3,230 | \$21,731 |
| Repair and maintenance | 191 | 1,323 | \$29,947 |
| Personal and laundry services | 92 | 634 | \$17,578 |
| Membership associations & organizations | 169 | 1,186 | \$15,371 |
| Private households | 52 | 88 | \$13,790 |
| TOTAL GOVERNMENT | 106 | 8,305 | \$39,775 |
| Local Government | 31 | 4,997 | \$34,136 |
| State Government | 19 | 1,459 | \$33,442 |
| Federal Government | 56 | 1,850 | \$60,005 |

Source: Montana Department of Labor & Industry, Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages Program (QCEW)

* Data Not Disclosable

The QCEW program compiles data reported by all employers covered under Montana unemployment insurance.

(Totals may not add due to nondisclosure of confidential industry data or to rounding.)